

Remarks

Claims 3 and 9-10 are pending. Claims 7 and 18 have been canceled.

I. Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, allegedly for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that the amendment "...and wherein the method is not therapeutic" does not provide support for such a negative limitation. The Examiner states that the passage cited in the response "merely indicates that the methods of the invention can be used for diagnosis, prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment."

Applicants respectfully traverse for reasons of record. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 7 and 18 have been canceled. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending application is believed to be warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to directly contact the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of the application to issue.

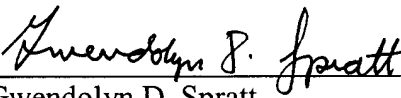
Payment in the amount of \$110.00 (Extension of Time Fee) is to be charged to a credit card and such payment is authorized by the signed, enclosed document entitled Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038. This amount is believed to be correct; however, the Commissioner is

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Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

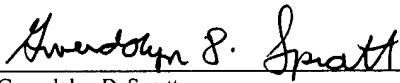


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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Gwendolyn D. Spratt

1-28-04

Date